

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet make changes to Figs. 26A-26C and replaces the original sheet with Figs. 26A-26C.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 2-7, 13-16, 18, 19 and 26-30 are pending and claims 20-25 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 13, 14, 26, 28 and 29 are amended, and claims 1, 8-12 and 17 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Further, Figs. 26A-26C have been corrected. Applicants appreciate and thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-7, 15-19 and 26-30 are allowed, and claims 13 and 14 contain allowable subject matter. For reasons as discussed below, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks below.

I. Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to Figs. 26A-26C. Figs. 26A-26C have been labeled as "related art." Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Satisfy Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to claims 26 and 28-30 based on formal matters. Claims 26, 28 and 29 have been amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Watanabe (U.S. Patent No. 6,529,236); rejects claims 8, 9, 12 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Sato (U.S. Patent No. 4,775,885); rejects claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sato in view of Iizuka (U.S. Patent No. 6,686,960). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, claims 1, 8-12 and 17 have been canceled, and thus the rejection with respect to these claims are now moot. Claim 13 has been indicated by the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter and incorporates the features of claim 12. Claim 14 now

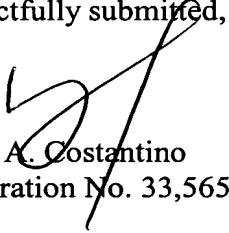
depends on claim 13. Therefore, claims 2-7, 13-16, 18, 19 and 26-30 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

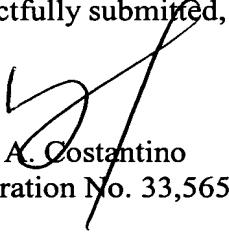
IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 13-14 are earnestly solicited. The Office Action has indicated that claims 2-7, 15-16, 18-19 and 26-30 are allowed.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565


Yong S. Choi
Registration No. 43,324

MAC:YSC/eks

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Replacement Sheet

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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